goes in for material recycling, a ban may be imposed on dirty coloured carry bags; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABULAL MARANDI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The task Force has recommended the ban on the manufacture of dirty coloured carry bags with visible contamination. However, the Task Force has also observed that over 60% of the plastics waste generated in the country goes in for material recycling. The Ministry of Environment and Forests has constituted an Implementation and Monitoring Committee to overview the progress and follow-up of the recommendations of the Task Force.

Ecological Imbalances in Areas under Control of Defence Authorities

1071. SHRI JOYANTA ROY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ecological imbalances are being created daily due to large scale felling of trees and haphazard growth of M.S. Buildings by civilians within areas of control of the Defence Authorities;

(b) if so, whether Government have issued any directives to the Directorate General of Defence Estates in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof and how far these directives have been effective to control the situation; and

(d) what further steps are being contemplated for controlling the damaged evironment of the affected areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABULAL MARANDI): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Large Scale Deforestation at Tilpat Firing Range

1072. SHRI DEBABRATA BISWAS: SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-items appearing in the 'Pioneer' dated 5th May, 1998 wherein it has been stated that IAF authorities have given a go-ahead for clearing 1480 acres of the range covering 14,06,000 trees at Tilpat firing range near the Hindon Air Force Station, Ghaziabad.

(b) whether such large scale deforestation drive was carried out without mandatory sanction of his Ministry or that of the Ministry of Defence;

(c) if so, the steps propose to protect the environment from such large scale disaster; and

(d) the punitive steps being contemplated against the personnel responsible for such environmental vandalism?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABULAL MARANDI): (a) Yes, Sir, the Government's attention has been drawn to the news item appearing in the 'Pioneer' dated 5th May 1998.

(b) As intimated by the Air Force authorities it is incorrect that the Indian Air Force had bulldozed 520 acres area at Tilpat firing range and destroyed 14 lakh trees. Tilpat firing range encompasses an area of appoximately 4000 acres. Tilpat range is Air Force land and was cleared of bushes and other vegetation in view of flight safetey. Generally no bush or tree is allowed to grow in a firing range area as the vegetation attracts birds of all kinds. When aircrafts are involved in firing of weapons on a firing range such as Tilpat, they have to fly down to low heights at a high speed upto 1000 km per